Every effort is made by the Department to impress legibly stamps of date and place of posting and day of delivery so that the transit time can be found out. However, because of the high volume of mails and manual nature of the job, stamps are some-times indistinct.

(c) Remedial steps are taken where delays are noticed and field officials are instructed to closely monitor transmission and delivery of mails and ensure proper stamping of letters.

कम्प्यूटर आपरेटरों के लिए कम्प्यूटर भत्ता

377. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या संसद भवन के रेल आरक्षण कार्यालय में नियुक्त कर्मचारियों द्वारा उन्हें कम्प्यूटर भत्ता देने और सरकार द्वारा उसे क्रियान्वित किए जाने के संबंध में सांसदों के माध्यम से एक संयुक्त अभ्यावेदन भेजा गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और क्या सरकार ने उनकी मांगों की जांच की है;

(ग) क्या इन कर्मचारियों को कम्प्यूटर प्रचालन भत्ता नहीं दिया जा रहा है जबकि रेलविभाग के अन्य कर्मचारियों को यह भत्ता दिया जा रहा है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में अब तक क्या कदम उठाए गए है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी॰ के॰ जाफर शरीफ): (क) और (ख) रेल मंत्रालय के नोटिस में ऐसा कोई अभ्यावेदन नहीं आया है।

(ग) आरक्षण कार्यालयों में कहीं भी कम्प्यूटरों पर कार्यरत किसी भी कर्मचारी को कम्प्यूटर भत्ते का भुगतान नहीं किया जाता है।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Proposal to lay Rail Lines between Rayagada and Gopalpur, Orissa

378. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to lay a rail line between Rayagada and Gopalpur in Orissa;

(b) whether that proposal is expected to be implemented during the remaining period of 8th Plan; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Denudation of Forests in Eastern States

379. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that massive denudation and destruction of rain forests in the Eastern States in the Hills in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bindhya ranges and Eastern ghats and Western ghats are causing a green-house effect with ecological and climate changes;

(b) whether new approach to modern industrialisation in these areas is also causing havoc to the natural eco-balance system; and

(c) If so, whether Government plan to do immediately to restrain the process of complete denudation of forests and restore natural eco-balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the State of Forest Report, 1993, the total forest cover of the country as per 1993 assessment has increased by 1560 sq. km in comparision to 1991 assessment. The forest area has marginally decreased in the States/Union Territories of Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Goa, Daman & Diu only whereas in other States/Union Territories either forest cover has increased or remained unchanged. However, no report of massive denudation and destruction of rain forests in the Eastern States in the Hills in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bindhya ranges and

Eastern ghats and western ghats, causing the green-house effect with ecological and climate changes has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) No, Sir. The new industrial policy specifically stipulates that environmental considerations would always be borne in mind. Hence the Ministry of Environment & Forests has a rigorous process of Environmental Impact Assessment for several categories of industries, in order to minimise adverse environmental impact, including impacts on forests and wildlife. In addition, there is the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, which severely restricts the diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes, and which is being strictly followed by the Ministry. Even when diversion is permitted in cases of developmental importance, this is done against compensatory afforestation & other stipulations.

(c) Does not arise.

Forest Land in Gujarat

380. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the area of forest land in Gujarat State;

(b) whether the preset forest land area meets the standard international requirements;

(c) if not, the steps envisaged during the Eighth Five Year Plan period to increase the same; and

(d) what would be the achievement of the same at the end of Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The district-wise figures of forest land are not maintained in this Ministry. However, the district-wise details of forest cover in the State of Gujarat as per the State of Forest Report, 1993 are as follows:—

	District	Forest cover (in sq. kms.)
1.	Ahmedabad	54
2.	Amreli	191
3.	Banaskantha	747
4.	Bharuch	1250
5.	Bhavnagar	139
6.	Gandhinagar	9
7.	Jamnagar	257
8.	Junagarh	1608
9.	Kheda	45
10.	Kachchh	1252
11.	Mehsana	32
12.	Panchmahals	1033
13.	Rajkot	80
14.	Sabar Kantha	676
15.	Surat	1308
16.	Surrendernagar	71
17.	The Dangs	1510
18.	Vadodara	504
19.	Valsad	1278
	Total	12,044

(b) No inernational standard for the forest land area has been fixed. However the National Forest Policy, 1988 stipulates that minimum of one-third of the total land of the country should be under forest cover. The percentage of land in Gujarat State under forest cover is 6.1%.

(c) The various steps taken during 8th Five Year Plan by the government to increase the forest cover in the Gujarat are:

(i) People's participation is being actively promoted for protection and management of forest in the State.

(ii) Financial assistance is being provided to the state for rehabilitation of degraded forest through involvement of tribals and rural poor and also for control of forest fires.